

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 33 are pending in this application. In the Office Action dated June 7, 2007, claims 1, 11 and 13 were objected to because of alleged informalities, claims 1 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite and claims 1, 20 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Claims 31 to 33 are allowed, claims 1, 20 and 27 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action, and claims 2 to 19, 21 to 26 and 28 to 30 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 13, 20 and 27 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 11 and 13 were objected to because of alleged informalities.

Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the objections to claims 1, 11 and 13 therefore is respectfully submitted.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite and claims 1, 20 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 13, 20 and 27 have been amended. Support can be found at paragraphs [0015] and [0022] to [0031], for example.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 30 are definite in light of these amendments. The language "one of" the first and second links has been removed, and the terms "arranged pivotably", "tensioning", "pretensioning" and "coupling" adequately describe the structural cooperative relationships of elements.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph therefore is respectfully submitted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 31 to 33 are allowed. Claims 1, 20 and 27 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. Claims 2 to 19, 21 to 26 and 28 to 30 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In light of the amendments to claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 13, 20 and 27 and the above with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 30 are in a condition for allowance in addition to claims 31 to 33.

With further respect to claims 1, 20 and 27, applicants respectfully point out that it is a vehicle hinge that is being claimed and the flap or a vehicle coupled thereto is not positively recited in claims 1, 20 and 27.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action. If, upon review, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues and advance the prosecution of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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